DANGER OF POPERY,

From *Scots* and *English* Colleges and Seminaries Abroad.

34 pamph 1367-23

SIR,

I am heartily Sorry that several useful Papers lately published, have had so little Influence for Opening People's Eyes, to see the evident Hazard we are just now in of Popery. Particularly it might have been expected, that the faithful and seasonable Warning of the Commission of the late General Assembly, would have had more Influence upon all true Protestants. One would have thought that the well attested Accounts of the Increase of Popery, in Popery Reviving, might have brought People to think more of their Hazard. To give you therefore a further Proof, that our Apprehensions and Fears of having that idolatrous and bloody Religion brought in again amongst us, are not without Ground: I send you here an Account of the present State of the Scots and English Colleges and other Seminaries for Educating and Corrupting of the British Youth, which if duly considered, may give us a frightful View, not only of our present Hazard, but the lamentable Circumstances of future Generations, if kind Providence do not prevent it.

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DOWAY is called the *Mother College*, being one of the first established after the *Reformation*, for the Education of *English Roman-Catholicks*, and may one Year with another, have One Hundred *English* Scholars at Twenty Five Pounds per Annum each, and abundance of Masters.

ege of *English Jesuits*, where there are seldom under Two Hundred *English* Scholars also, at about Twenty Five Pounds *per Ann.* each; I know none of our Colleges in *Oxford* or *Cambridge* more Magnificent; few Palaces have a finer Front.

At *Liege*, the *English Jesuits* have another fine College, where there are above an Hundred *English* Scholars.

And at *Ghent* they have a College, where they Educate *English* Youth, even under the Nose of the *English* Garrison.

And at *Burham*, near *Antwerp*, the late Cardinal *Howard* purchased a fine Monastery for *English Dominicans*, where Abundance of Young Gentleman are train'd up.

In *Germany* they have a fine Monastery of *Benedictin Monks*, called *Lansberg*.

And at *Newport*, the *English Carthusians*, who escaped from *Smithfield* after the *Reformation*, built a fine Monastery, which is still enjoyed there by the *English*.

When the *English* Barrier, Sir, is so full of *English Popery*, what must you not expect from their College at *Paris*, nearer their Prince? And from their College at *Rome*?

But as the Ladys contribute as much to keep up the *Spirit of Party* in *England* as the Men, you will soon perceive from what Source that proceeds when I assure you, That at *Dunkirk* there are Two *English Seminaries* for Ladys; that called *the Dames* are all Women of Quality, governed by the Lady *Gerrard*. Each Lady that stays to be a Nun brings Five Hundred Pounds Portion with her

And the Young Ladies who are Penſioners, and return to *England*, pay by the Year.

At *Gravelin* there is alſo a very large one. And at *Aire* another.

At *Bruges*, there are two very fine *Seminaries* for *Engliſh* Ladies, the one Govern'd by Lady *Lucy Herbert*, Siſter to the preſent Lord *Powis*; and the other by Mrs. *Roper*, of the Lord *Tenham's* Family. I have ſeen often the *Engliſh* Ladies of the firſt in their Choir with Magnificence, and their Penſioners plac'd in great Order; of which there are ſeldom under Fifty at this Houſe, beſides what are at the other.

At *Ghent*, there is alſo a Nunnery for *Engliſh* Ladies; where there are abundance of Penſioners.

At *Bruſſels* two. At *Antwerp* one. And at *Louvain* a moſt celebrated one, all *Engliſh*; beſides the Blue Nuns at *Paris*, who, tho' now we have Peace, will breed up more of our Young Ladies than any other Boarding-School. Alſo a rich Nunnery of *Auguſtin's* in that great City, ſeldom under Sixty Ladies Nuns; and aboundance of Youg Ladies Penſioners.

Another of *Benedictine* Nuns, in Number Thirty; and many Penſioners; and a fine Convent of *Engliſh Benedictine Monks* in the *Fauburg St. Jacques*, conſiſting of Twenty four Fathers.

I might here add, That at *Blois* and *Pontoiſe*, in *France*; thoſe at *Bilboa*, St. *Lucar*, *Seville*, *Madrid*, and *Valledolid*, in *Spain*; with thoſe at *Lisbon* in *Portugal*; but being at greater Diſtances, I will not particulariſe them, becauſe our Danger is not ſo immediatly from thence, as from thoſe at Home.

form a Church-Government for *England*, which they have divided into three *Provinces*.

London, and the adjacent Counties, are governed by Bishop *Leyhorn*.

The *West*, and *Wales*, by Bishop *Gifford*. And the *Northern* Countries by Bishop *Smith*.

The *Jesuits Dominicans*, *Benedictins*, *Franciscans*, and *Carmelists*, have also their Provincials and Superiours, and keep their Yearly Synods, and Visitations all over *England*; and hold their Triennial Chapters for the chosing of those Provincials in as Regular a Method as in *Rome* or *France*. They have also abundance of *Popish-Schools* in *London* and the Country, and every Novice that enters into a College Abroad, takes the following Oath.

I *A. B. Collegiate of the* English Seminary, *duly Considering the great Benefit which Almighty God has bestow'd upon me, and that 'specially he hath drawn me out of the Country infected with* Heresy, *and made me a Member of his true* Catholick-Church; *and desiring to shew my self not altogether ungrateful unto God's so great Mercy, I have freely Decreed to Consecrate and Offer up my self wholly to his Divine Service, for attaining as much as in me lieth to the End of the said College: And I do promise and Confirm by this my Oath, unto Almighty God, that I am, and shall ever be, most ready in Mind, by the Assistance of his holy Grace, to receive Holy Orders in due Time, and to return into* England, there to gain Souls, whensoever the Superiour of this College shall think good by Virtue of his Office, to command me thereunto.

When

broad, and their Industry so great in Sending Missionaries amongst us, what must you not conclude its Strength and Interest to be at Home? Few of these Colleges and Seminaries but have their Revenues from *England*: Some of them have vast Estates there. Is there a County in *England* but where there are even Noblemen of their Profession? What Quantities of Gentry are there of that Profession in *Yorkshire* and *Lancashire*? And how do they crowd in Droves on a *Sunday*, or *Holy-Day*, at the *Portuguise*, *Venetian*, or other *Popish* Princes Chappels in *London*.

How did they hug themselves, and laugh at the *English Gazette*, wherein, about a Year ago, it was Advertised, That upon a narrow Enquiry of the *Justices of Peace*, there were not found to be above 900 *Papists* in and about *London*. One of the Fathers at St. *Omers* frankly owned, that he was then at *London*, and Lodged at a Coffee-house in *Wild-Street*, near *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, when the Constables called: He said, That they never entred into any House, only asked at the Door, *Have you any Papists Lodged here*? And being answered no, went away. He told me, That there were Seven more Priests, at the same Time, Lodged at the *Black-Horse* in *Great-Queen-Street*, for whom the same answer was given.

Thus you see how naturally we indulge our selves in Favour of these People, and how little we Souls are on our Guard from them, who want but the Power to subvert our Laws and Liberties.

Now I must shew you that *Scotland* is not without its Danger from this Source as well as

England, altho I believe there are many Provinces in that Kingdom where there is not one *Roman-Catholick*, yet they have their *Popish Seminaries* Abroad also.

At *Douay* there is a College of *Scots Jesuits* where abundance of their Youth are Educated. At *Paris* that Nation hath a very fine College.

At *Ratisbon* they have a large Convent of *Benedictine Monks*. And at *Wortsburgh* another, all *Scots* and the Abbots dignify'd and distinguished. In the Empire they have a fine Convent also at *Vienna*; and a *Jesuits* College at *Rome*. One would wonder how a Nation so strictly *Protestant* could furnish Youth enough to support these Houses but a Duke of *Gordon* in the *North*, whose Family and Branches are always *Papists*; a *Maxwell*, Earl of *Nithsdale* in the *South*, the same; and most of the *High-land* Clanns also of that Religion, do always feed them with fresh Stock; and from these Colleges, by the Industry of their Priests, are sent Home more Gentlemen than we are aware of; for certainly most of the *High-landers* which were in Arms for King *James* during the late Reign, and are now Pensioners to the Crown, under the present Administration, are known to be still too much in the Interest of the *Pretender* and *Popery*. The *Episcopal Party* in *Scotland* are generally for the *Pretender*, and I am sorry to own that many of the Gentlemen of that Nation in our Army, Gallant Men in their Persons, well Bred, and Men of Honour, yet are too generally tainted with the Notion of *Hereditary Right*, and their Family of *Stuart*, which seems to be the Dearer to them, as being Originally of that Nation.

Provinces that they are Ten to One in that King-
one Num: I need not sum up the many Colleges they
eminar have Abroad as a Source for that Nation, I need
only tell you, that they have a College of Ten
Jesuit thousand Armed Men in *France*, all *Irish*, Com-
ted. manded by Officers that have been in all the great
. actions during the two last Wars, entirely de-
of Ben voted to the *Pretender* and *Popery*, and Yearly re-
all Scot cruited and kept up from *Ireland*, notwithstand-
ned. ing all the Endeavours of our Government to pre-
o at vent it; *France* and *Spain* owned that they have
e won owed the most of their Successes to these Troops,
t cou with a Duke of *Berwick*, that Consummate and Ex-
Hous perienced General at their Head.
Famil To give you but one Proof more, that we have
ell, Eagood ground for our Fear of Danger, from the
most increase of Popery; not only where Popish
, do a Noblemen or Gentlemen have Influence, but also
nd from Places subject to Protestants: I shall give you a
iests, a true Account of the State of the Five Highland
e awa Parishes in the Presbytery of *Kincardine* in *Aber-*
s whi *deen* Shire.
the la The greatest Part of these Parishes, ly's within
own, un Regality which belongs to a Protestant.
n to b There are only Two Ministers in these five
der an Parishes, but in each of them there is a Priest
re gen commonly residing; besides several itinerant
own th Priests. In the upper Part of *Glengardine*, the
our A Priest has a House built for his Residence, where
Bred, a he is well provided with all necessaries. They
taint have not only Houses for themselves to live in,
their F but they have fixed Places of Worship, which are
earer consecrated, and have Altars erected in them, on

which the Profit is exposed. The poor ignor
deluded People, of whom about 600 have be
perverted within these few Years resort thith
as avowedly as Protestants to their Parish Church
the Priests have their stated Days of Catechisin
Children are carried publickly to Lapt sm; Pe
sons are publickly proclaim'd in Order to Ma
riage, and afterwards Married in the Presence
great Crouds of People. When *Gordon* or a
other of the Popish Bishops comes to that part
the Country, Three or Four Hundred Peop
sometimes meet at the House of *Lewis E*
guharson of *Auchindrain* to receive Confirm
tion, &c. About *Castletoun* in the Parish of *K*
drochit, there are above 40 Familys, who with
these Four Years have almost all been perverted
Popery. There is another Piece of Land call
Richarbar, in which there is not one Protestan
Male or Female, and tho' it pays not 17 Pou
Rent, it can raise 50 well Arm'd Men.

The Priests in that Place have of late had
Confidence to demand Liberty from some Pr
testant Gentlemen, to build some more Places
Residence and Worship among their Tenen
whom they have perverted: And they tra
through the Country in Pairs, and visite
Gentlemen, even those who are Justices of Pea
When they are among Protestants, they end
vour to perswade them, that there is no Grou
for Fear from the Pretender or Popery. But
mong the Papists or Itanch Jacobites, they Inti
ate, That the Queen is to reign in Favour of
Pretender, and that the King, as they call
Pretender, will be speedily on the Throne.

FINIS.